

**To:** Smith, Paula[Smith.Paula@epa.gov]; Zito, Kelly[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV]  
**Cc:** Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]; Harris-Bishop, Rusty[Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov]; Harrison, Melissa[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov]; Keener, Bill[Keener.Bill@epa.gov]  
**From:** Purchia, Liz  
**Sent:** Mon 8/10/2015 9:44:40 PM  
**Subject:** RE: JIC PIO list

My notes on the QA from the press call

### **Superfund site?**

Been up there for number of years, been draining for decades, been contaminating for decades, the decision needs to be done concurrent with states and local officials

### **Closed until at least Aug. 17? How many taps turned off? And why that date?**

Referring to both rivers. Facts going into that are really the reality of the process we need to undertake to come to a coordinated decision around when to reopen the river to different uses. The first thing we need to establish are the risk screening levels based on exposure through different uses. We're coordinating that with different regions. The second is the data that's coming on the different levels of contamination and if we're back to pre-contamination levels.

There are decisions that need to be coordinated with state, tribal officials and thought it was important to inform public of that timing.

### **How many people around this route where you've had closure are affected including the number of drinking water taps turned off?**

Number of public water supply systems that are affected. In Utah, zero. All public water sys operations. In NM, 2 closed in due to the event. In CO, 2 public water sys closed due to the event that are getting by with other uses of water

We have 5 systems that are affected in NM

### **Pre-event conditions, bc of sedimentation, how closed do you think we can get? What kind of long-term commitment do you have and long-term planning?**

Don't want to speculate on data, but showing trajectory toward pre-event conditions

Absolutely committed to the longer term effort, engaged across the agency at EPA to do the sampling that's necessary to inform that work, doing the modeling, and committed to work with the partners that we need to do to the long term cleanup and mitigation work

Will become available once data is fully analyzed

**If superfund before happened, would it be better protected?**

If listed, makes resources available under superfund, which are significant resources and allows for more extensive clean up

**When have a better picture of what's in the water concentration wise? Seeing trajectory but why can't we have a better picture?**

We're screening for 24 different metals and that information is being posted. Have the response from the lab from Aug 5-6 and those are up. We'll continue to post as it becomes available

**Water being shut off include irrigation, canals? If so, for livestock and crops, what are the impacts? Any way to mitigate impacts?**

Developing screening levels for ag and livestock, and fish and wildlife

Working w San Juan county to provide alternative water supply for livestock

**How did things go so wrong?**

Will have independent investigation to see what happens and we'll be taking steps in the future to ensure we avoid these kinds of events

**If plume is 3 times and ongoing? How can you say there are no appreciable affects to wildlife?**

At least from what we've initially observed there haven't been impacts reported. There could be some that occur over time, but we'll be working closely with state agencies.

Debra was referring to terrestrial wildlife that would use it for drinking water, based on travel time of plume, didn't see impact there. The impact due to sediment is still an ongoing question and will be evaluated

**What is the extent of the impact of the plume? Where does it go to? Is some water being taken to CA?**

In terms of lower reaches, Animus flows into San Juan, goes into Animus and then Navajo then back into Utah and then deposits into Colorado's Lake Powell. Talking to mayor there to monitor impacts and have received some calls from CA who are asking same questions. Going to talk about comparing to pre-plume

**From:** Smith, Paula  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 3:35 PM  
**To:** Zito, Kelly  
**Cc:** Gray, David; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Harrison, Melissa; Purchia, Liz; Keener, Bill  
**Subject:** Re: JIC PIO list

Thx.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 10, 2015, at 1:32 PM, Zito, Kelly <[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV](mailto:ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV)> wrote:

Rusty's email is incorrect. Please see the cc here.

And his cell is: 415- 694-8840

Thanks-

Kelly

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 10, 2015, at 11:08 AM, "Gray, David" <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)> wrote:

I understand they will have a telephone line later today (as early as 2 pm MT).

Address:

1101 2nd Avenue

Durango, CO

#### Local Active PIO Group

Name	Email	Organization	Phone Numbers
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